

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-11 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DRC-01 /046 W

----- 107275

R 060515Z AUG 74

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2289

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL PERTH BY POUCH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MELBOURNE 0929

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, AS

SUBJECT: PRINCIPAL TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS

ANNOUNCE UNIFIED STAND ON WAGE INDEXATION

1. AFTER SERIES OF DAY-LONG MEETINGS, AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS (ACTU) PRESIDENT BOB HAWKE STATED THAT WHITE COLLAR AND BLUE COLLAR UNIONS "HAVE MOVED CLOSER. THERE IS A LOT OF COMMON GROUND".

2. HAWKE WAS REFERRING TO NEW UNITY BETWEEN HIS ORGANIZATION, ACTU; AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SALARIED AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS (ACSPA); AND COUNCIL OF COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS (CCPSO), ON THREE PART PROGRAM.

3. UNIONS WILL NOW ENTER AUGUST 8 CONFERENCE ON INDUSTRIAL REFORM, CHAIRED BY JUSTICE JOHN MOORE, ASKING FOR: (1) AUTOMATIC QUARTERLY ADJUSTMENT TO WAGES FOR PRICE MOVEMENTS (WAGE INDEXATION);

(2) ANNUAL NATIONAL WAGE CONSIDERATION BY ARBITRATION COMMISSION FULL BENCH ENSURING FAIR

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DISTRIBUTION OF NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY GAINS AND

ADJUSTMENT TO MINIMUM WAGE ON BASIS OF LOW INCOME
EARNER'S NEEDS; (3) FREEDOM FOR UNIONS TO PRESS CLAIMS
BASED ON GROUNDS OTHER THAN PRICE INCREASES, SUCH
CLAIMS TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE GOVERNMENT
ARBITRATION TRIBUNALS AT FEDERAL AND STATE LEVELS
AND THROUGH DIRECT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING WITH
EMPLOYERS.

4. COMMENT: BOTH WHITE COLLAR GROUPS AND ACTU
HAVE STILL NOT COMPOSED THEIR DIFFERENCES ON HOW
INCREASES SHOULD BE GRANTED. WHITE COLLAR UNIONS
STILL PREFER INCREASES TO TBE BASED ON PERCENTAGE
RISES, WHILE HAWKE'S UNIONS FAVOR EQUAL FLAT
INCREASES ACROSS THE BOARD. LABATT CONJECTURES
THIS MAY BE POINT OF DIFFERENCE WHICH WILL
PERSIST THROUGH CONFERENCE DELIBERATIONS AND
WILL BE MOST IMPORTANT AREA FOR JUSTICE MOORE
TO EXERT HIS NOT INCONSIDERABLE PRESTIGE IN
ORDER TO ENSURE COMPLETE CONSENSUS REPORT.
BRAND

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: cunninfx
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TAGS: ELAB, AS, (HAWKE, ROBERT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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